**LACASSE & ASSOCIATES**

PROFESSIONAL PATENT SERVICES

1725 Duke Street, Suite 650

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone (703) 838-7683/Facsimile (703) 838-7684

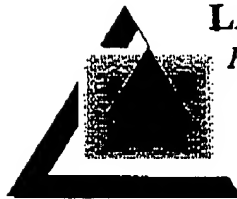
E-Mail: patserv@lacasse-patents.com

**CONFIDENTIAL
FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET****DATE SENT:** July 28, 2003**DELIVER TO:****Name:** Examiner David Lee Lewis**Company:** USPTO Group Art Unit 2673**Phone No:** 703-306-3026**Fax No:** 703-872-9315**FROM:** Randy W. Lacasse**SERIAL NO.:** 09/788,636**OUR DOCKET:** ARC920000017US1

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF **5** PAGE(S) INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET.
OUR FACSIMILE MACHINE COMMUNICATES WITH ALL GROUP III, II AND FM6
MACHINES.

NOTICE: The documents transmitted by this facsimile are intended for the use of the individual or the entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of the message is not the intended recipient, or the employee, or agent responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original facsimile to us at the above address via the Postal Service.

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE & RETURN☒ **REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION****DOCKET:** ARC920000017US1**SERIAL NO.:** 09/788,636**IN RE APPL. OF:** Knopf**TITLE:** COLLABORATIVE TABLET COMPUTER**PGS OF SPEC:** **PGS OF CLAIMS:** **PGS OF DRAWINGS:** **AGENTS:** Randy W. Lacasse**TOTAL CHARGES:** \$0.00Jaclyn A. SchadeRamraj Soundararajan



LACASSE & ASSOCIATES

PROFESSIONAL PATENT SERVICES

1725 Duke Street, Suite 650

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone (703) 838-7683/Facsimile (703) 838-7684

E-Mail: patserv@lacasse-patents.com

**CONFIDENTIAL
FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

DATE SENT: August 29, 2003

DELIVER TO:

Name: Examiner David Lewis
Company: USPTO Group Art Unit 2673
Phone No: 703-306-3026
Fax No: 703-308-6606

FROM: Randy W. Lacasse

SERIAL NO.: 09/788/636

OUR DOCKET: ARC920000017US1

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL OF **15** PAGE(S) INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET.
 OUR FACSIMILE MACHINE COMMUNICATES WITH ALL GROUP III, II AND FM6 MACHINES.

NOTICE: The documents transmitted by this facsimile are intended for the use of the individual or the entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of the message is not the intended recipient, or the employee, or agent responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original facsimile to us at the above address via the Postal Service.

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE & RETURN

X AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

DOCKET: ARC920000017US1

SERIAL NO.: 09/788,636

IN RE APPL. OF: Knopf

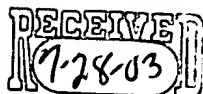
TITLE: COLLABORATIVE TABLET COMPUTER

AGENTS: Randy W. Lacasse

TOTAL CHARGES: \$0.00

Jaclyn A. Schade

Ramraj Soundararajan

OfficialARC920000017051
09/788,636

#7

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Eric Andrew Knopf

Serial No.: 09/788,636

Group Art Unit: 2673

Filed: 2/21/2001

Examiner: David Lee Lewis

Title: *COLLABORATIVE TABLET COMPUTER*REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant's representative would like to thank the examiner for the time spent discussing the claims and prior art applied to the claims of the present invention.

Summarizing the discussion (in-depth argument follows):

Applicant's representative presented the argument that the main reference Latocha fails to disclose or even suggest the claimed removal of a frame (exposable movable exterior sides) to expose the display edge for abutment. Not only does Latocha not suggest this claimed feature, there would have been no motivation to have looked to modify Latocha, as Latocha's invention has no frame to remove. The secondary reference Ohgami et al. was added to show support for covering/uncovering connection ports. Port covers are well known, however, Ohgami et al., similar to Latocha, do not disclose or suggest removal of a frame to expose the display for abutment. Ohgami et al. have a frame, but it is not removed or moved in any way. As neither reference discloses or suggests removal of the display frame (exposable movable exterior sides) for abutment of a display to another display, together they cannot provide or suggest the claimed feature. As an aside, Ohgami's port protector only enables insertion of a portable media object and thus does not provide the required ability to mate two display devices even when

Page 1 of 4

ARC920000017091
09/788,636

exposed (uncovered). Thus, Ohgami's port cover does not provide the missing function from the Latocha reference.

The suggestion to modify and combine references for the purposes of a 35 USC 103 rejection must come from the references themselves. Absent this, the required *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

As the combination of Latocha et al. and Ohgami does not provide the claimed elements of the outstanding claims of the present invention and a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be removed under reconsideration and the remaining claims passed to allowance with allowed claim 43.

Detailed argument:

One or more sections on a housing of a portable computing device are selectively removed or folded away, thereby exposing a free edge of a computing display screen as well as electrical connectors and structural connectors. Two or more such devices are docked utilizing the exposed connectors such that the exposed screen edges abut. Upon docking, the devices recognize the new configuration and re-map the desktop area of the display into a single display for the combined device.

One embodiment of the present invention allows either, or both, the top edge or side edge of the housing to be simply pivoted underneath the device to expose the edge of the device screen. Electrical and structural connectors are exposed as well. The edges of the device are sharply angled, allowing the edge of the device to pivot under itself without adding any substantial thickness to the device. The two folding side sections are split at a 45-degree angle, allowing for independent rotation of the sections, while still providing the maximum potential protection to the screen edge. When one side is folded down, the other edge extends beyond the